**Reduction in Monopoly Control on Carriage of Letters**

*190. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO:
DR. SHRIKANT
RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government in the area of reduction in its monopoly control on carriage of letters thus paying the way for according a formal status to the courier industry;

(b) the response of the industry to this proposal; and

(c) by when this is likely to be actually implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) No decision has been taken to reduce the exclusive privilage of the Central Government on carriage of letters which is vested in it in terms of Section 4 of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

**विदिशा में टेलीफोन लाइनों का खराब रहना**

*191. **श्री राघवजी:** क्या **संचार** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि विदिशा जिले के ग्रामीण आंचलों में टेलीफोन लाइनें प्रायः खराब ही रहती हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है, यदि ऐसी कोई कार्यवाही कारगर साबित नहीं हो रही है तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) फाइबर ग्लास की लाइनें बिछाने का काम कब तक पूरा किया जाना था और क्या वह काम अब पूरा हो गया है;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो बिलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) कार्य कब तक पूरा कर लिए जाने की संभावना है?

**संचार मंत्री (श्री बेनी प्रसाद वर्मा):** (क) यह रिपोर्ट दी गई है कि इस समय विदिशा जिले में 20% ग्रामीण सार्वजनिक टेलीफोन खराब हैं।

(ख) खराब टेलीफोनों को ठीक करने के लिए कार्रवाई की जा रही है तथा इस कार्य में हो रहे सुधार पर नियमित रूप से निगरानी रखी जा रही है।

(ग) यथानिर्धारित लक्ष्य के अनुसार मार्च, 1996 में विदिशा-बसोदा आप्टिकल फाइबर लिंक संस्थापित किया गया है। बसोदा-लटेरी आप्टिकल फाइबर केबल बिछाने का कार्य चल रहा है तथा मार्च, 1998 में नियत समय पर संस्थापित किए जाने की आशा है।

(घ) लागू नहीं क्योंकि इस कार्य में देरी नहीं हुई है।

(ङ) मार्च, 1998 तक।

**Inadequate Telephone Staff at Kalyan Telecom Circle in Maharashtra**

*192. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minsiter of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the requried staff-telephone ratio for adequate functioning of the telephone exchanges in the various telecom circle of the country;

(b) whether it is a fact that the staff telephone ratio for Kalyan telecom circles in Maharashtra is one of the lowest vis-a-vis the other telecom circles of the State;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) The Target of staff to telephone ratio has been fixed as 25 per 1000 Direct Exchange Lines for the Department of Tele-communications as a whole, to be achieved by the year 2000. For individual Telecom Circles no separate tergets have been fixed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The growth of Telecom network in Kalyan Telecom District has been faster as compared to other Telecom Districts of the state.

(d) The low Staff to Telephone ratio in Kalyan is due to higher productivity of staff. This has not affected the operational efficiency of the Telecom District.

**Allotment of STD/PCOs in Punjab**

*193. SHRI IQBAL SINGH:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH KALYAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who have been allotted telephone, STD/PCOs in the State of Punjab during the year 1995-96 and during the current year, district-wise;

(b) the number of persons proposed to be issued telephone, STD/PCOs during 1996-97, district-wise;

(c) whether Government are aware that the necessary meetings for the allotment of STD/PCOs are not being conducted by the concerned telephone authorities in Punjab; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether the instructions have been issued to the telephone authorities in the State of Punjab; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) and (b) The information is given in the enclosed statement. (*See* below)

(c) and (d) There are standing instructions to hold STD/PCO allotment committee meeting once a month if capacity earmarked for STD/PCOs is available in the exchange system. According to the available infomation the allotment committee meetings have generally been held in accordance with the standing instructions in all Secondary Switching Areas of Punjab Telecom. Circle.

**Statement**

*District-wise Allotment of Telephone/STD/PCOs in Punjab during the years* 1995-96 *and current year*

| | Telephones | | | STD/PCOs | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Name of Telecom District | Alloted during 1995-96 | Allotted duiring 1996-97 | Proposed during 1996-97 | Allotted during 1995-96 | Allotted during 1996-97 | Proposed during 1996-97 |
| Amritsar | 14819 | 5894 | 12000 | 457 | 177 | 506 |
| Bathinda | 7698 | 3219 | 8000 | 387 | — | 219 |
| Chandigarh | 23519 | 4567 | 25000 | 310 | 167 | 1503 |
| Ferozpur | 13703 | 3168 | 10000 | 336 | 244 | 422 |
| Hosiarpur | 6215 | 2000 | 5000 | 218 | 246 | 130 |
| Jalandhar | 28044 | 4687 | 15000 | 1010 | — | 296 |
| Ludhiana | 23783 | 5942 | 50000 | 1499 | 581 | 2637 |
| Pathankot | 3660 | 977 | 13000 | 309 | — | 250 |
| Patiala | 14129 | 2361 | 6000 | 623 | — | 302 |
| Ropar | * | 167 | 1500 | 55 | 47 | 91 |
| Sangrur | 7840 | 2779 | 8000 | 127 | 119 | 294 |

*Newly created SSA.